Decoding Fine Art Media

Acrylic: Uses a mixture of pigment and plastic that can be thinned with water and can mimic the effects of oil, watercolor, tempura, and gouache paints.

Collage: Attaches (French word meaning 'pasting' or 'gluing') materials (paper, cloth, or anything) to a surface. Drawing or painting can also be used.

Drawing: Uses an implement to leave a mark on a surface. Dry media include graphite pencils, charcoal, pastels, chalk, oil pastels, crayons, and colored pencils. Liquid media include pen and ink, brush and ink, and ink wash.

Encaustic: Uses pigment mixed with wax and resin that has been heated to a liquid state. When it cools the surface retains a hard luster. This is one of the earliest methods of applying color to a surface and was used by the Egyptians and Romans.

Gouache: Uses watercolor mixed with a high concentration of opaque ingredients such as chalk and primarily used during Byzantine and Romanesque eras of Christian art. Similar to poster paint and will hide anything over which it is painted.

Mixed Media: Uses collage, pieces of paper, etc. in the artwork. Picasso and Braque were the first to incorporate pieces of newsprint, wallpaper, wine labels, and oilcloth in their paintings.

Oil Paint: Uses pigment mixed with linseed oil, which can take weeks or months to dry. Colors can be blended subtly and reworked easily; however, paint can become 'muddy' from mixing colors and paint too much. Turpentine is used as a thinner.

Printmaking: Is an indirect way of creating art by transferring an image or design through one of four traditional manual processes:

- *relief*: wood-cut, wood engraving, or linoleum-cut (block)
- *intaglio*: dry point, engraving, etching, aquatint, or mezzotint (plate)
- *planography*: lithography (stone)
- *stencil*: screenprint (silk-screen or serigraphy)

Watercolor: Uses pigment with water and gum arabic, although currently defined as any medium that uses water as a solvent. It is commonly applied to paper for small, intimate works. Transparency is the desired characteristic.